



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: NM116

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: New Mexico
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
Location of Position: Santa Fe/Albuquerque, NM
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice
Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☐ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area
Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☒ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)
Employer: State of New Mexico or other public health agency Position Title: Veterinary Epidemiologist
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☒ Food Safety
- ☒ Public Health
- ☒ Epidemiology
- ☒ Other: Emerging infectious disease

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

A veterinarian in this position will dedicate at least 70% of their time to public health practice in all 33 counties in New Mexico (NM). The objectives of this veterinarian will be to: promote food safety through responsible agricultural and public health practices; provide guidance during public health emergencies; assist with development of protocols to address outbreaks of infectious and zoonotic disease; provide educational opportunities for the public; and act as a resource for information for other veterinarians, public health practitioners and medical professionals. The veterinarian in this position will be available to serve the community, including the veterinary technician programs, medical school and schools of public health within the state. This veterinarian will also play a crucial role in binational disease surveillance in conjunction with Mexican government and border health officials. This veterinarian will be located centrally but will travel throughout the state providing public health assistance where needed and coordinating efforts with the NM Department of Health, regional health offices, the Department of Homeland Security, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the NM Department of Agriculture, NM Livestock Board, NM Veterinary Diagnostic Services, USDA Wildlife Services, NM Fish and Game and other federal, state and local agencies.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

To meet the objectives listed above the veterinarian meeting the shortage situation will:

- Assist with the investigation and prevention of foodborne illnesses and outbreaks
- Implement epidemiologic studies to gather information and stop prevent spread of disease
- Collect, analyze and interpret epidemiologic data related to outbreaks and day to day data review
- Assist with the development and exercise of bioterrorism and agroterrorism prevention and preparedness plans
- Coordinate responses to natural and man-made disasters, including evacuation planning for companion animals and livestock
- Assist with the education of students at universities, schools of public health and other programs, through guest lectures and curriculum design, when needed
- Provide educational materials regarding zoonotic disease (including salmonella, plague, tularemia and rabies) to the public
- Provide subject matter expertise and conduct investigations into human and animal fatalities and illnesses, related to zoonotic disease
- Answer inquiries from the public, veterinarians and medical providers
- Conduct and coordinate surveillance for emerging infectious diseases, especially those that have potential to significantly impact animal and human health
- Coordinate binational disease surveillance and outbreak response with veterinarians and authorities in Mexico, as needed

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Currently, New Mexico only has one public health veterinarian who is able to assist with food safety, epidemiology and public health throughout the state. Recruitment of another public health veterinarian has been restricted because of lack of funding, especially during times of economic crises. Veterinarians in this position have not always stayed in the position a significant amount of time; cost of living for veterinarians, especially those who have recently graduated and those who are centrally located in New Mexico, can be prohibitive. Furthermore, many veterinarians in public health practice have loans from graduate programs (e.g. Masters in Public Health) in addition to their veterinary school loans which can cause financial hardship if income received is not adequate to cover the cost of living and loan repayment.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

New Mexico has unique diseases that cause illness and death when public health practices are not implemented. NM has the highest number of human plague (262 since 1949; 34 fatal), animal plague and Hantavirus cases in the United States. If this position is not secured, cases will not be investigated and disease will spread uncontrolled. The ability to provide information,

testing and investigation of outbreaks of emerging disease (2009 H1N1) is limited because of the lack of adequate numbers of public health veterinarians in NM. Public health veterinarians are not available to serve the Native American population on reservations and pueblos in NM. Arizona fox strain rabies is rapidly spreading across NM where vaccination of dogs and cats is almost non-existent and veterinarians are not available to perform this community service which is a significant risk to animal and human health. Community education, outreach and planning for public health emergency response are limited; one person cannot serve the needs of the entire state. A veterinarian is needed to provide consultation to beef and dairy producers, and private practice veterinarians in 33 NM counties. Binational surveillance with Mexico including disease reporting for imported Brucellosis from food products and imported animal rabies, could be implemented in a timelier manner if a public health veterinarian were available to assist in this capacity. This would make the food supply safer and decrease the opportunity for imported diseases to spread within the state. Securing this position will greatly improve animal and human health in NM.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dave E. Fly, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: New Mexico Livestock Board

Email: Dave.fly@state.nm.us

Telephone Number: 505-841-6161
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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